

REMARKS

Applicants have considered the outstanding official action. It is respectfully submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance as set forth below.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowance of claims 36 and 52.

The pending rejections based on art are as follows:

- (1) Claims 26, 27 and 44 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 2,785,700 (Yovanovich);
- (2) Claims 28-30 and 51 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yovanovich in view of JP 11-333219 (Shinichi) or U.S. Patent No. 6,659,152 (Miyake);
- (3) Claims 31-33 and 43 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yovanovich in view of Shinichi or Miyake and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,776,698 (Kreger);
- (4) Claims 37-39 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yovanovich in view of Kreger;
- (5) Claims 34 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yovanovich in view of Shinichi or Miyake and further in view of JP 59-9044 (Keiichi);

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- (6) Claims 40-42 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yovanovich in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,250,430 (Wade); and
- (7) Claim 45 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yovanovich in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,251,809 (Drummond).
Claims 26-28 and 34-35 have been canceled. The dependencies of claims 29, 37, 40, 43, 44, 45 and 51 have been amended to be dependent on allowed claim 36 or 52. Accordingly, all the pending dependent claims are dependent directly or indirectly on allowed claims 36 or 52. In view of the cancellations and amendments to the claims, applicants submit that the outstanding rejections are rendered moot. The only remaining claims are allowed claims 36 and 52 and claims dependent thereon.

Therefore, reconsideration and formal allowance of all of the claims is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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